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AUG 21 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A suture anchoring system, comprising:

a suture;

at least three anchor members interconnected to form an anchor assembly with said suture extending therefrom, wherein said at least three anchor members include first and second outer anchor members and at least one intermediate anchor member, and said anchor assembly having an insertion configuration sized for delivery through an aperture in bodily tissue and being transitionable to an expanded configuration sized to prevent passage of said anchor assembly back through the aperture;

a first actuating element extending through a first loop structure associated with said first outer anchor member and through a second loop structure associated with said second outer anchor member; and

a second actuating element secured to said anchor assembly adjacent said at least one intermediate anchor member; and

wherein said first and second outer anchor members are drawn toward one another by pulling said first actuating element in a direction away from said anchor assembly to at least partially transition said anchor assembly toward said expanded configuration; and

wherein said at least one intermediate anchor member is positioned laterally between said first and second outer anchor members by pulling said second actuating element in a direction away from said anchor assembly to further transition said anchor assembly toward said expanded configuration.

15. (Previously Presented) A suture anchoring system, comprising:

a suture;

at least three anchor members interconnected to form an anchor assembly with said suture extending therefrom, wherein said at least three anchor members include first and second outer anchor members and at least one intermediate anchor member, and said anchor assembly having an insertion configuration sized for delivery through an aperture in bodily tissue and

being transitionable to an expanded configuration sized to prevent passage of said anchor assembly back through the aperture; and

an actuating element extending through a first loop structure associated with said first outer anchor member and through a second loop structure associated with said second outer anchor member; and

wherein said first and second outer anchor members are drawn toward one another by pulling said actuating element in a direction away from said anchor assembly to at least partially transition said anchor assembly toward said expanded configuration.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein each of said at least three anchor members has a tubular configuration defining an axial passage extending therethrough, said at least three anchor members being serially interconnected by a linking element extending through said axial passage in each of said at least three anchor members to form said anchor assembly, looped end portions of said linking element defining said first and second loop structures associated with said first and second outer anchor members.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein each of said linking element and said actuating element comprises a suture.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A suture anchoring system, comprising:  
a suture;

at least three anchor members interconnected to form an anchor assembly with said suture extending therefrom, wherein said at least three anchor members include first and second outer anchor members and at least one intermediate anchor member, and said anchor assembly having an insertion configuration sized for delivery through an aperture in bodily tissue and being transitionable to an expanded configuration sized to prevent passage of said anchor assembly back through the aperture, wherein each of said at least three anchor members has a tubular configuration defining an axial passage extending therethrough, said at least three anchor

members being serially interconnected by a linking element extending through said axial passage in each of said at least three anchor members to form said anchor assembly; and

an actuating element extending through a first looped end portion of said linking element adjacent said first outer anchor member and through a second looped end portion of said linking element adjacent said second outer anchor member;

wherein said first and second outer anchor members are drawn toward one another by pulling said actuating element in a direction away from said anchor assembly to at least partially transition said anchor assembly toward said expanded configuration.

20.-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A suture anchoring system, comprising:

a suture; and

at least three anchor members interconnected to form an anchor assembly with said suture extending therefrom, said anchor assembly including first and second outer anchor members and at least one intermediate anchor member, said anchor assembly having an insertion configuration and an expanded configuration to prevent passage of said anchor assembly back through the aperture; and

an actuating element extending through a first loop structure associated with said first outer anchor member and through a second loop structure associated with said second outer anchor member;

wherein said first and second outer anchor members are drawn toward one another by pulling said actuating element in a direction away from said anchor assembly to at least partially transition said anchor assembly toward said expanded configuration.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein each of said at least three anchor members has a tubular configuration defining an axial passage extending therethrough, said at least three anchor members being serially interconnected by a linking element extending through said axial passage in each of said at least three anchor members to form said anchor assembly, looped end portions of said linking element defining said first and second loop structures

associated with said first and second outer anchor members.

30.-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) A suture anchoring system, comprising:

a suture;

a plurality of anchor members interconnected to form an anchor assembly with said suture extending therefrom, said anchor assembly having an insertion configuration wherein said anchor members are aligned in a substantially linear arrangement for delivery through an aperture in bodily tissue and an expanded configuration wherein first and second ones of said anchor members are drawn toward one another to define a non-linear arrangement to prevent passage of said anchor assembly back through the aperture; and

an actuating element extending through a first loop structure associated with said first anchor member and through a second loop structure associated with said second anchor member, wherein said first and second anchor members are drawn toward one another by pulling said actuating element in a direction away from said anchor assembly to at least partially transition said anchor assembly toward said expanded configuration.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein said plurality of anchor members includes at least one intermediate anchor member positioned between said first and second anchor members, said non-linear arrangement of said anchor assembly comprises a triangular-shaped configuration with said at least one intermediate anchor member extending transversely between said first and second anchor members.

37. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein said plurality of anchor members includes at least one intermediate anchor member positioned between said first and second anchor members, said non-linear arrangement of said anchor assembly comprises a side-by-side configuration with said at least one intermediate anchor member positioned laterally between said first and second anchor members.

38. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein each of said anchor members has a tubular configuration defining an axial passage extending therethrough, said anchor members being serially interconnected by a linking element extending through said axial passage in each of said anchor members to form said anchor assembly, looped end portions of said linking element defining said first and second loop structures associated with said first and second anchor members.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein each of said linking element and said actuating element comprises a suture.

40.-56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 56, further comprising~~ A suture anchoring system, comprising:

a suture; and

at least two anchor members interconnected to form an anchor assembly with said suture extending therefrom, said anchor assembly having an insertion configuration sized for delivery through an aperture in bodily tissue and being transitionable to an expanded configuration sized to prevent passage of said anchor assembly back through the aperture, said suture forming at least one loop; and

an actuating member extending through said at least one loop; and

a second actuating member that engages said suture at a point between said anchor members.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein said second actuating member is looped about said suture.

59. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 56, A suture anchoring system,~~ comprising:

a suture; and

at least two anchor members interconnected to form an anchor assembly with said suture extending therefrom, said anchor assembly having an insertion configuration sized for delivery through an aperture in bodily tissue and being transitionable to an expanded configuration sized to prevent passage of said anchor assembly back through the aperture, said suture forming at least one loop; and

an actuating member extending through said at least one loop; and

wherein said at least one loop of said suture comprises first and second loops, and said actuating member extends through both loops.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein said insertion configuration is one in which said anchor members aligned in a substantially linear arrangement for delivery through an aperture in bodily tissue.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein said expanded configuration is one in which first and second outer anchor members are drawn toward one another to define a non-linear arrangement.

64. (Cancelled)